(*b*) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the labourers of the concern who were working there are asked either to quit or to pay rent for the quarters where they are living?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The deputationists have submitted certain proposals for reopening the Metal Industries, Limited, Shoranur, which are under the consideration of the Government.

" (*c*) The information is not available."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, inasmuch as the factory and the property are under attachment and under the custody of the Government, will the Government see that pending investigation the labourers are not driven out of their present dwellings? Complaints of many such quit notices have been received by me."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" If the hon. Member brings such cases to my notice, I shall look into the matter."

Bed strength of the Government Hospital at Tanjore.

* 446 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of beds proposed to be increased in the Government Hospital at Tanjore; and

(*b*) the details about the additional staff proposed to be employed in the above hospital under new schemes for 1954–55?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) There is no proposal for increasing the bed strength and for employing additional staff in the Government Headquarters Hospital, Tanjore."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" நீண்ட நாட்களாக தொந்திரவுக்குள்ளாகி யிருக்கும் நோயாளிகளுக்கு தஞ்சாவூர் ஆஸ்பத்திரியில் **Bed Strength**-ஐ அதிகமாக்குவதற்கான யோசனையில்லை என்று சொன்னார்கள். இதற்கு என்ன காரணம் என்று சொல்லுவார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have made a general statement that whenever there is need the bed strength will be increased. But personally I think there is greater need for raising the standard of medical and surgical work in our hospitals than merely adding to the bed strength."

Printing of forms for the use of panchayat boards by Hoe and Company.

* 447 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government insist that the printing of the forms, etc., to be used by the panchayat boards should be done only by Hoe and Company and not at the choice of the panchayat boards themselves; and

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(*b*) whether the Government have received any complaints or representations from panchayat boards that they are put to serious difficulties on account of this?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Why should not Government take immediate steps on the representations made by the panchayat boards to see that they are given the choice of selecting the presses? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Sir, it is only the forms which are prescribed under rules and orders issued by the Government that are printed and supplied by Hoe and Company. The other forms can be printed by the local bodies themselves through their contractors selected after invitation of tenders as prescribed in the rules."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" In view of the fact that panchayats are starved for want of finances, if they can get the forms printed at a cheaper rate, why should not the Government allow them to do so? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Sir, the Government are considering this point, whether they can print all the forms themselves and terminate the contract with Hoe and Company. If Government decided to terminate the contract of Hoe and Company, then Government will have to give nine months' notice to the company. Government are considering this question very seriously."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" Sir, are the Government aware that because some forms are not available with the Government, the work of the panchayat boards is held up some times? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" I know the difficulties. That is why I have answered to the main question like that. The matter is under the serious consideration of Government."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—" சர்க்கார் ஒவ்வொரு தரமும் பஞ்சாயத்து ஆபீசர்கள் மூலமாக பாரம்கள் ஹோ அண்டு கம்பெனியிடமிருந்து வாங்க வேண்டுமென்று உத்திரவிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அம்மாதிரி இருப்பதால் சர்க்கார் ஹோ அண்டு கம்பெனிக்கு சலுகை காட்டுகிறார்களா அல்லது ஹோ அண்டு கம்பெனி சர்க்காருக்கு சலுகை காட்டுகிறதா ? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" There is already an agreement in force between the Government and the company This was entered into about five or six years ago and renewed periodically. Now Government are thinking to issue notice terminating the agreement. The agreement will cease nine months after the issue of the notice."